

ParkWays



Volume 7, Issue 4

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Parks

Fall/Winter 2002/2003

Parks Staff to Travel to Munich — Deepening Ten-Year Exchange

An artist's rendering of the Munich Pavilion

In October, members of Cincinnati Parks staff will leave for Germany to meet with representatives of the Munich Park Board—one of many visits since the inception of their innovative partnership over a decade ago.

The purpose of this journey is twofold. First, delegates will review the construction plans and progress made on the "Castle of Air" pavilion Munich has donated to the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park. The park—now being developed along Eastern Avenue's riverfront—is intended to foster international relationships.

The pavilion, to be constructed in Munich and installed in the park's European gar-

dens, will be a modern interpretation of a classical 18th century German castle.
Officials will also work to certify the building plans and arrange for transportation and installation of the

pavilion. (A grand celebration will be planned for the dedication in the fall of 2003.)

Secondly, the group will

develop a feasibility plan for creating a

Cincinnati garden at the annual European Federal Garden Show (BUGA2005) to be hosted in Munich in 2005. (Cincinnati is the first American city ever invited to participate in the interna-

tionally acclaimed expo!) Cincinnati's invitation to create the garden is largely a product of the professional friendship—now the strongest international professional exchange between

two park systems—that has been cultivated between Cincinnati and Munich.

The design under consideration for the American gar-

den will mirror the "Hands of Friendship" garden in the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park, which is a tribute to the pursuit of peaceful international relations that characterized the life and work of former Cincinnati Mayor Ted Berry.

"The professional exchange between Cincinnati and Munich provides extraordinary benefits to both parks systems," said Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of Cincinnati Parks. "Relationships of this caliber serve as catalysts for other municipal associations promoting economic development and cultural exchanges between cities. Our partnership with the Munich Park Board has provided us with priceless expertise from professionals in a system renowned for its environmental management and state-of-the-art techniques."



What city park
includes a monument
commemorating
Cincinnatians' role in
The Battle of San
Jacinto?

Cincinnati Parks + CCY = Success 4 Youth

Did you happen to notice that Cincinnati Parks employees seemed to have a lot of company this summer? What you saw were Parks employees working side-by-side with local young people—an initiative originally developed by former Mayor Charles P. Taft (1955-1957). The Cincinnati Park Board was assigned 29 14 and 15 year-old students from the Citizens' Committee on Youth (CCY), a non-profit organization that partners with the Community Action Agency. The students each worked 20 hours a week between June 10th and August 16th, helping out with a variety of jobs at Parks facilities.

While some students planted flowers, cleaned flowerbeds, and took on litter patrol, others helped naturalists teach classes. They also performed general ground and forestry maintenance with employees in the sections of Urban Forestry, Land Management and Green Space. Several students were assigned to Warder Nursery to help

employees grow plants for landscaping. Others provided clerical support for the Park Board Administrative Office and Operations Administrative Office.

"This youth employment program affords youth the opportunity to learn job skills as well as basic life skills that help prepare them to be responsible and productive adults," said Amber Twitty, Community Development Specialist

at CCY.
"They walk
away knowing the
importance
of dependability,
discipline,
leadership
and working
as a team."

CCY not only engages youth in job readiness training, but also provides an avenue for youth to obtain on-the job work experiences, by assigning them to local organizations, such as the Cincinnati Park Board. The students are paid by CCY.

"Although adding the students to the work crews did pose logistical challenges for some employees, the rewards were many," said Dorothy Fiedler, Administrative Specialist of Human Resources at Cincinnati Parks. "Our

employees watched these young people, some who were working a job for the first time, possibly blossoming into the workforce of the next generation."

As park employees tended to our precious parks, they also helped these young people evolve into productive and responsible workers. Perhaps they even inspired some future careers with the Park Board!

The Miracle of Fall EXPLAINED

It's that time of year again when nature dresses in her finest and offers a cornucopia of beautiful colors. The Red Maples in Mt. Airy Forest are bright with reds and oranges, and the Hickory trees in Stanbery Park are radiant with yellows. With such a wide variety of trees and shrubs, Cincinnati Parks' majestic fall foliage is as vibrant as an artist's palate. Ever wonder why the leaves change from green to a rainbow of fall colors?

Though he fondly remembers the childhood story of Jack Frost,

Lew Spurlock, a naturalist with the Cincinnati Parks for over 30 years, explains the scientific process behind the remarkable transformation.

Plants and trees produce food in their leaves by using sunlight to manufacture water taken in through their roots and carbon dioxide taken from the air—a process called photosynthesis. Chlorophyll, the chemical that gives leaves their green color, also facilitates photosynthesis.

Because autumn days have fewer hours of sunlight, photosynthe-

sis—and therefore, the need for chlorophyll—is reduced. When chlorophyll disappears, brilliant colors emerge.

Now that the days are getting shorter, we can once again anticipate Mother Nature's colorful splendor. Despite his scientific explanation, Lew-and all who are young at heart-still like to imagine that Jack Frost's magic painting plays a small part in bringing about the yearly miracle of autumn.



Two Foundations Help Revive a Hyde Park Treasure

Two new gifts from the John Hauck Foundation and The H.B., E.W. and F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation bring the Cincinnati Parks Foundation even closer to reaching the \$330,000 required to restore the historic Kilgour Fountain, which has stood in the center of Hyde Park's busy square since the beginning of the 20th century. At press time, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation had raised an impressive \$182,000.

"These two foundations—
and all of the generous
donors who have
contributed to the
Kilgour Fountain—
have brought this
campaign within
reach and are taking
an active role in
restoring a

community treasure," said Gus Long, Campaign Co-Chair.

The \$25,000 gift from the John Hauck Foundation recognized Frederick Hauck for his many contributions to the fountain and Hyde Park.

The H.B., E.W. and F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation's \$25,000 donation was given in memory of Frances Luther who dearly loved the Hyde Park community.

Lead supporters for the effort are the PNC Foundation and the Robert H. Reakirt Foundation, a PNC Bank trustee.

Renovation is expected to commence in early 2003 and be completed ahead of the fountain's 103rd birthday in November!

Please call 513/352-2619 or send donations to: Cincinnati Parks Foundation; 950 Eden Park Drive; Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Dedication Ceremony Honors Donald Spencer

Following a \$300,000 renovation effort by the Cincinnati Park Board, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation hosted a private dedication ceremony for the Donald Spencer Overlook. The June ceremony honored the landmark's namesake, Donald Spencer, who was the first African American member of the Cincinnati Board of Realtors and served as past president of the Cincinnati Association of Real Estate Brokers.

"It is so appropriate that the largest overlook to the Ohio River be named for Donald Spencer—a man of such great community vision," said Brewster Rhoads, Campaign Chair.

In 1975, Spencer also became one of the founding members of the Friends of Cincinnati Parks. He worked tirelessly through the decades to secure much needed



Donald and Marian Spencer at the overlook

funding to sustain and beautify local parks and served as a vocal advocate for free and open access to Krohn Conservatory.

The landmark overlooks the Ohio River to a panoramic view of the northern shore of Kentucky. It is also the point of embarkation for the Buckeye Trail—a picturesque path that winds north all the way to Cleveland.

Renovation included:

- The existing wall and sidewalk were completely removed and reconstructed.
- The parking area was reduced to eliminate excessive paving, resulting in expanded green areas and planting spaces along pedestrian walks.
- Parallel parking was reconfigured and expanded along Cliff Drive to accommodate Overlook visitors, area picnickers and Krohn Conservatory overflow traffic.
- New site furnishings were added including benches, tables, landscape plantings and interpretive signage.

Funding for the Donald Spencer Overlook restoration was derived from both private and public funding, USBank being the largest private contributor.

The James Magrish Riverlands Preserve

Take a Seat at the Scenic Magrish!

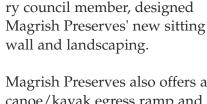
A brand new sitting wall now gives visitors a convenient place to enjoy the 45-acres of exquisite scenery at The James Magrish Riverlands Preserve. The rich river-bottom habitat, lush with foliage and wildlife, is situated in the eastside community of California along the Little Miami River—recognized as a national and state scenic river.

"We thank The California Woods Advisory Council for raising the funds to design and build the Little Miami River overlook," said Jim Farfsing, Manager of Nature Education at the Cincinnati Parks. "The view from the new limestone bench is perfect for watching the area's trees, birds, and animals."

The preserve's occasional flooding provides an environment suited to water-adapted wildlife, including wood duck, willow flycatchers, and various species of frogs, as well as longed-legged

wading birds, such as great blue and green herons. The riverside location also offers ideal vantage points for viewing river wildlife, including snapping turtles, kingfisher, and osprey.

Jeff Payne, an adviso-



Magrish Preserves also offers a canoe/kayak egress ramp and hiking trails. For more information, please call the Cincinnati Park Board at 513/321-6070.



Planned Giving

Legacies of Green Society Recognizes Donor Generosity and Foresight

The Legacies of Green Society is proud to honor during their lifetimes, the many generous donors who include the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in their estate plans. These donors have designated the Foundation as a recipient of a gift during their lifetime (e.g. charitable remainder trust) or a beneficiary of a will, trust, insurance policy or IRA. Acceptable gifts of appreciated stock, real estate, cash, securities, or other bequests are also appreciated. In

many cases, the value of a bequest can often lower or eliminate estate tax liability. A planned gift to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation is a living legacy which will benefit generations to come.

Please consult with your financial advisor, insurance agent, or attorney to make a planned gift. You may also call the Cincinnati Parks Foundation at 513/357-2619.

Yes, I want to help preserve Cincinnati Parks
For generations to come!
☐ Please send me more information on planned giving.
I would like to make an appointment with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation to discuss my planned giving options. Please call me.
Name
Address
City State Zip
Daytime Phone Evening Phone
E-mail
Mail to: Cincinnati Parks Foundation; 950 Eden Park Dr.; Cincinnati, OH 45202

or call 513/357-2619.

Events Sampler

Planetarium Programs: Monsters

Oct. 18: 7 - 8 p.m. Oct. 20: 3 - 4 p.m. Trailside Nature Center Burnet Woods

"It's a Seedy Business" Pumpkin Carving

Oct. 22 4 - 5:30 p.m. California Woods

Halloween Hikes

Oct. 25 & Oct. 26 7 - 9 p.m. Caldwell Nature Center

Fall Bonsai Display

Oct 26 - 27 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Krohn Conservatory

"What a Seedy Season!" Hike

Nov. 2 10 - 11:30 a.m. McFarlan Woods

A Snake is a Man's Best Friend

Nov. 8 7 - 8:30 p.m. LaBoiteaux Woods

Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society Meeting

Nov. 8 7:30 - 10 p.m. Avon Woods Nature Preserve

Search for "Fungus Among Us"

Nov. 9 1 - 2:30 p.m. Ault Park

Native American Skills

Nov. 14 3:30 - 5 p.m. Avon Woods

Thanksgiving Traditions

Thanksgiving Celebration Nov. 15

7 - 9 p.m. Trailside Nature Center

Planetarium Programs: Winter Constellations

Nov. 15: 7 - 8 p.m. Nov. 17: 3 - 4 p.m. Trailside Nature Center Burnet Woods

The Grave Truth

Nov. 16 1 - 2:30 p.m. Pioneer Cemetery

Nuts About Nuts!

Nov. 19 4 - 5:30 p.m. California Woods

Winter Wonderland

Nov. 23 - Jan. 5 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily* Krohn Conservatory Sponsored in memory of Edwin and B.J. Ahrens *Extended evening hours 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. from Dec. 7 - 30

Balluminaria

Nov. 30 (Rain date: Dec. 1) 5 - 7 p.m. Mirror Lake, Eden Park

Owl Prowl

Dec. 13 7 - 8:30 p.m. French Park

Holiday Craft Workshop

Dec. 13 7 - 9 p.m. LaBoiteaux Woods

"Winter in the Woodlands" Walk

Dec. 14 6:30 - 8 p.m. California Woods

Visit www.cinci-parks.org for a complete listing of events.

A Cincinnati Parks Chronical

look at: Washington Park

Washington Park, located across from the magnificent Music Hall in Overthe-Rhine, boasts a rich history. Hoping the park would provide a respite from the summer heat for downtown residents, the city purchased two parcels of land in 1855 and 1860, and another in 1863.

Washington Park quickly became a focal point of social activity, specifically for Overthe-Rhine's large German-American community. Carriages escorted fashionable Cincinnatians to band concerts and picnics held in



The historic Washington Park

the octagonal gazebo music pavilion—the centerpiece of the park. Gondolas transported visitors up the canal along Music Hall where they arrived to experience the park's extravaganzas.

In 1888, hundreds of thousands came to visit the The Centennial Exposition of the Ohio Valley and Central States. Washington Park, for that moment, was the showcase of the Middle West.

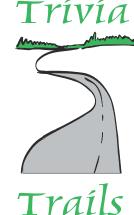
More recently, on May 17, 2002, Members of Leadership Cincinnati Class XXV dedicated a public floral display symbolizing the

beauty of community diversity. The initiative, *Colors of the Earth*, called for the collaboration of 20 local elementary schools. Each third grade class planted a particular type of

flower. The mature plants were then brought together to create a beautiful garden in Washington Park.

The community also worked with the Art Academy of Cincinnati, Peaslee Neighborhood Center, and the Miami University Center for Community Engagement to create a 70 square-foot sculptural bench for Washington Park. The bench's mosaic and clay artwork reflect its uniting theme, "I Have a Dream of Peace: the People's Mosaic Project."

Washington Park's rich history of social gatherings and musical events have inspired renewed landscaping and maintenance efforts, as well as public events and festivals, encouraging all Cincinnatians to come downtown and enjoy this compelling slice of Cincinnati history.



Trails

Oldenview Park, the site of a well-known

restaurant, is on "Buttermilk

incline and

Mountain". Where did the hill get its name and which

incline was located

here?

The Krohn Conservatory

Holiday Show to Feature Time-Honored Nativity

Like the sight of crisp orange and red leaves, the annual sounds of construction at Krohn Conservatory hint that holiday festivities loom just around the corner. One week before their hearty Thanksgiving feast, the Biedenharn family, and many other dedicated workers, begin the four-week long process of transforming the lush, flowery patio at Krohn Conservatory into a breathtaking nativity scene.

"It is so inspirational," said Jerry Biedenharn, who has participated since 1972.
"Countless people have been dedicated to this project for so many years—from Western-Southern to the fellow who offers his sheep every year."

The tale begins in the 1930s.



Members of the Biederharn and Williams families

Jerry's father, Andy, worked closely for a local landscape architect, A.L. Heger. Heger built a life-size nativi-

ty scene that caught the eye of Charles Williams, then the president of Western-Southern Life Insurance. Charles convinced Heger to set it up in Western-Southern's parking lot so his employees could enjoy the Christmas décor. In 1939, with the dedicated sponsorship of Western-Southern, Charles and Heger requested permission to erect the scene in Lytle Park. (From 1943-1945, the scene was temporarily raised in Union Terminal for WWII troops moving through the city.)

Responsibility for erecting the nativity changed hands in 1955 when Andy took

over. In 1967, construction of the Lytle Tunnel required the nativity scene be temporarily moved to Eden Park. Later, Cincinnati Parks and Western-Southern felt the nativity scene best complimented the holiday décor at the Krohn, so there

cont. on pg. 4

Take Cover in Krohn's Tropical Room

On a rainy afternoon, or simply under the morning's misty dew, unsuspecting visitors in the Krohn's Tropical room—home of the chocolate tree and star fruit tree—were often surprised with a few soggy drops from above.

The Park Board replaced the caulking in-between the room's glass panels and also replaced the glass panels with safety glass. (If broken, safety glass would crumble into fine pieces, rather than dangerous jagged pieces, similar to windshields.)

The project began shortly after the Butterfly Show drew to a close and took just over two months to complete. Today, visitors roaming among the blooming tropical plants can leave the damp elements of the rainforest to their imagination!

Volunteer News

Kay Steinmetz: Not Your "Garden-Variety" Volunteer



Answers

pg. 1:
Burnet Woods' Lone
Star Pavilion
recognizes this decisive
battle for the
independence of the
Texas Republic.

pg. 3: Nothing stronger than buttermilk was permitted to be served in the restaurant. Oldenview Park was also home to the Price Hill incline. If you need to find Cincinnati Park Board volunteer Kay Steinmetz, the best place to look is in a garden. You'll likely observe Kay—spade and trowel in hand—enjoying the serenity she feels while gardening.

Perhaps that's why, in 1998, Kay began working to launch a formal gardening volunteer effort for dedicated diggers like herself. Today, thanks to her persistence and dedication, the Cincinnati Park Board Gardeners gather once a month to lend their green thumbs to a variety of worthy public greenspaces. Recent beneficiaries of the group's horticultural skills include the Hauck House gardens at Sooty Acres and the Mt. Echo gardens.

"Kay has been an inspiration to others in the way she refused to become discouraged when her urban gardens were vandalized or under-appreciated," said Cindi Nugent, volunteer coordinator for Cincinnati Parks. "Her initiative, resourcefulness, and energy are certainly valued and appreciated by Cincinnati Parks!"

Committed to the beautification of our community's urban areas, Kay was recently nominated as Volunteer of the Year and featured in *The Cincinnati Enquirer* for her work to beautify and maintain a public greenspace along Liberty Street.

"The admiration is defi-

nitely mutual," said Kay.
The Park Board has been so wonderful and supportive of our needs. They work with so little and yet do so much."

Most recently, the gardeners planted some bright and bold fall mums in planters along Ft. Washington Way. The mums were complete with special Bengal-orange striping! If you are interested in becoming a Cincinnati Park Board Gardener, please call 513-861-8970 ext. 26 or e-mail cindi.nugent@rcc.org.



Nativity, cont. from pg. 3

it remained. Jerry Biedenharn, took over the annual responsibilities of bringing the nativity scene to life when his father passed away in 1996—after working on the nativity for an impressive 57 consecutive years.

The 2001 scene drew nearly 75,000 visitors last year during its 3 1/2-week stay at Krohn Conservatory.
According to Western-Southern Life Insurance,

more than 2.5 million people have visited the nativity since its inception in 1939. The nativity scene will be open to the public from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. seven days a week, from December 6 - January 1.

General Information:

Cincinnati Park Board

950 Eden Park Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 513/352-4080 • 513/352-3380 (TTY) 513/352-4096 (fax) www.cinci-parks.org

Cincinnati Parks Foundation 950 Eden Park Drive Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 513/357-2619 • 513/352-4096 (fax)

Cincinnati Parks Volunteers 513/352-4080

Public Nature Programs 513/321-6070

Krohn Conservatory 513/352-4080

Reservations

Picnic areas, shelters, bandstands, and outdoor wedding areas: 513/357-2604

Alms, Ault, and Mt. Echo pavilions; French House; Mt. Airy lodges; Krohn Conservatory: 513/351-4777

Special Use Permits 513/357-2605

Information/Parks Visitor Center 513/352-4080



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